

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

REC'D 21 JAN 2004

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Applicant's or agent's file reference CO 0054/PCT/Kr/A	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA/416)
International application No. PCT/NL 02/00659	International filing date (day/month/year) 17.10.2002	Priority date (day/month/year) 17.10.2001
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC B21D26/02		
Applicant CORUS STAAL BV et al.		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 3 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 15.04.2003	Date of completion of this report 19.01.04
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized Officer Rechler, W. Telephone No. +49 89 2399-2354



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. : PCT/NL/02/00659

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, Pages

1-9 as originally filed

Claims, Numbers

1-21 received on 10.10.2003 with letter of 07.10.2003

Drawings, Sheets

1/3-3/3 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- contained in the international application in written form.
- filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages:
- the claims, Nos.:
- the drawings, sheets:

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EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/NL 02/00659

5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).
(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	2 - 10, 12 - 21
	No: Claims	1, 11
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1 - 21
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1 - 21
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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International application No. PCT/NL02/00659

Re Item V:

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: GB-A-2 224 965

D2: DE-A-37 16 176

2. The present application does not meet the requirements of the PCT, because the subject matter of claims 1 and 11 is not new in the sense of Article 33 (2) PCT.

Document D2 shows a method with all features of present claim 1 in combination. Documents D1 and D2 also disclose a container with all features of present claim 11. Furthermore, a product must be new in itself, and a container with a volume between 1 litre and 100 litres is obviously known.

3. Dependent claims 2 - 10 and 12 - 21 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, because in these claims merely slight constructional changes in the container of claim 11 or slight changes in the method of claim 1 are defined which come within the scope of the customary practice followed by persons skilled in the art, especially as the advantages thus achieved can readily be foreseen. Consequently, the subject matter of claims 2 - 10 and 12 - 21 lacks an inventive step Article 33 (3) PCT).

Further Remarks:

1. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
2. A document reflecting the prior art described on page 1, is not identified in the description (Rule 5.1 (a) (ii) PCT).

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1 (a) (ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D1 and D2 is not mentioned in the description, nor are these documents identified therein.

Amended set of claims for international application no. PCT/NL02/00659
in the name of Corus Staal BV et al
as per 7 October 2003

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CLAIMS

1. A method for producing a container for holding pressurized fluid, which container comprises a circumferential wall, a base and if desired a top, at least the circumferential wall being made from metal, characterized in that the circumferential wall is produced by hydroforming before the base and if desired the top are attached to the circumferential wall and wherein the circumferential wall which is to be hydroformed is produced as a tubular blank.

15 2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the circumferential wall which is to be hydroformed is produced as a tailored tabular blank, preferably as a tailored tubular blank with sections of different thicknesses.

20 3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, in which the circumferential walls for two or more containers are hydroformed as a single unit.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, in which the circumferential wall, prior to the hydroforming, has a substantially round, oval, triangular, rectangular or square cross section and/or a substantially cylindrical or conical shape.

25 5. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the base and/or the top are made from plastics, preferably from a thermoplastic; more preferably from polyethylene.

30 6. The method as claimed in claim 5, in which a container is produced with a base and a top made from plastics material, and the base and the top are connected to one another with the aid of a rigid tie rod.

35 7. The method as claimed in claim 6, in which the base, top and tie rod are produced as a single unit.

8. The method as claimed in claim 6 or 7, in which the rigid tie rod is designed to be at least partially hollow, in order to act as a discharge passage for fluid in the

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AMENDED SHEET

container.

9. Method according to one of the preceding claims, in which the circumferential wall is deformed by hydroforming in such a manner that parts of the circumferential wall can be used as a handle or as an attachment point for a handle which is to be attached.

10. The method as claimed in one of the preceding claims, in which the base and if desired the top are releasably secured to the circumferential wall.

11. A container for holding a pressurized fluid, produced using the method as described in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the container has a volume of at least 1 liter and at most 100 liters, preferably a volume of at least 5 liters and more preferably a volume of approximately 30 liters.

12. The container as claimed in claim 11, which is able to withstand a maximum operating pressure of 12 bar, preferably a maximum operating pressure of 6 bar.

13. Container as claimed in claim 12, in which the circumferential wall has a thickness of between 0.2 and 2.0 mm, preferably between 0.2 and 1.0 mm, depending on the volume of the container.

14. The container as claimed in claim 11, 12 or 13, in which the circumferential wall has a cross section with a dimension of at most 500 mm, preferably at most 400 mm.

15. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-14, which is a beer barrel.

16. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-15, which is designed in such a manner that containers stacked on top of one another fit into one another in nesting fashion.

17. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-16, in which marks are incorporated in the circumferential wall, these marks being formed into the circumferential wall by hydroforming, for example a name, a symbol and/or an instruction.

18. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-17, in which there are

deformations in the circumferential wall in order to reinforce the circumferential wall, which deformations are formed in the circumferential wall by hydroforming, for example reinforcing ridges.

- 5 19. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-18, in which attachment points are formed integrally in the circumferential wall for connecting pieces for connecting two or more containers, which attachment points are formed by hydroforming.
- 10 20. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-19, which is provided with a base and a top made from plastics material, which base and top are preferably connected to one another by a rigid tie rod.
21. The container as claimed in one of claims 11-20, which is suitable for single use.